Message Text

SECRET

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SECRETATHENS 1771

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO, GR

SUBJECT: GREECE-NATO RELATIONSHIP -- EXPLORATORY TALKS TO BEGIN SHORTLY

REF: (A) ATHENS 0816 (271006Z JAN 78); (B) STATE 41937 (170034Z FEB 78) (NOTAL)

- 1. VISITING EUR/RPM OFFICER AND EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER CALLED MARCH 1 ON MFA NATO/CSCE OFFICER FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION ON POLITICAL-MILITARY SUBJECTS. ON GREECE-NATO TOPICS, MFA INTERLOCUTOR SAID THAT SACEUR HAD RECENTLY CALLED GENERAL DAVOS, HELLENIC ARMED FORCES CHIEF, AND THAT THE TWO WOULD MEET TO BEGIN EXPLORATORY TALKS IN "ABOUT TWO WEEKS."
- 2. MFA OFFICER ALSO REFERRED TO FEBRUARY 9 NIMETZ-ALEXANDRAKIS TALK IN WASHINGTON IN A MANNER THAT INDICATED ALEXANDRAKIS HAD REPORTED HE HAD BEEN ASKED FOR "CLARIFICATION" OF GREEK VIEWS ON A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP." MFA HAD INSTRUCTED ALEXANDRAKIS SECRET

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TO STATE IN FOLLOW-UP WITH NIMETZ (REFTEL B) THAT GREEK POSITIONS WERE WELL KNOWN FROM THE JANUARY 1977 PAPER AND THAT DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOW BE OPENED AT THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL LEVEL. EUR/RPM OFFICER EMPHASIZED NEED FOR ALL PARTIES TO APPROACH COMING DISCUSSIONS WITH AN OPEN MIND, AND STRESSED THAT USG UNDERSTANDS GREEK CONCERNS AND IS FULLY READY TO BE OF ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE AS DISCUSSIONS PROCEED IN ALLIANCE FRAME-

WORK. MFA OFFICER REITERATED GREEK WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOWARD "PACKAGE SOLUTION."

3. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, MFA OFFICER MENTIONED THAT THE GREEK PROPOSAL FOR NATO COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS IN GREECE SIMILAR TO THOSE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN IZMIR HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO SYG LUNS SOME TIME AGO (REFTEL A). HE WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT NATO DELEGATIONS HAD APPARENTLY NOT BEEN INFORMED AND WILL PROBABLY QUERY GREEK PERMREP LAGAKOS ABOUT THIS. MILLS

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